

MPY-2001
5 October 1981

Memorandum for: Director, FBIS
Through : Chief, Operations Group
Subject : Monthly Report, Paraguay Bureau,
September 1981

I. GENERAL

A. New presidents in two countries in the Bureau's coverage area were inaugurated during the month and a third got an acting president due to a heart attack suffered by the incumbent. On 1 September Gregorio Alvarez was inaugurated as the new president of Uruguay in a ceremony in Montevideo. On the 4th General Torrelío Villa, the Army Commander, took the oath of office, thus ending days of speculation as to who Bolivia's new president would be. On the 18th an initial report was received that the Brazilian president had been hospitalized with a heart problem. On the 23rd an acting president was sworn in until President Figueredo recuperates.

B. In response to the bureau's advertisement, applications were received from 38 individuals for the vacant 11th monitorial slot. Some 17 were interviewed and 14 invited to take the bureau's rigorous test. A candidate was selected from 4 finalists and processing has begun.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In response to a Headquarters phone alert, an editor and monitors came in early on 4 September to cover Bolivian events. An open watch was instituted on Bolivian radios. After several delays, including a 53-minute period when the major Bolivian radios were unaccountably off the air, the Army Commander was sworn in as president ending a situation where the commanders of Bolivia's three military services ruled the country jointly.

2. On the 11th Chilean President Pinochet gave his annual speech to the nation marking the anniversary of the overthrow of Salvador Allende and Pinochet's coming to power. All nine takes of excerpts from the 2-hour speech were filed the same day.

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3. Also on the 11th, the ambassador's office called to express interest in the outcome of the meeting in Asuncion that day of the Yacyreta hydroelectric project committee. A watch of local radio and television stations revealed that a U.S. firm Allis Chalmers was awarded the very large turbine contract. The ambassador's office was notified and several items were filed on the subject.

B. Communications

The bureau's primary circuit was out for 1 hour 30 minutes on the evening of the 16th [] reported that the outage had been caused by a "loop back." STAT

C. Lateral Services

An advance copy of the draft Paraguayan electoral law, processed on special request by ELAD and JPRS, was passed to the Embassy political officer who expressed his thanks and said the new electoral law was likely to be "one of the two most important topics" for his section over the next year.

2. The bureau on 9 September received a cable from the American embassy in Brazil asking whether FBIS was processing the text of a major speech given by the Brazilian foreign minister at the country's Superior War College. While the text of the speech was never carried in any of the media monitored by the bureau, several items on the event had already been filed and the Embassy was so informed.

3. Two items were processed at BBC request during the month.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Senior Monitor [] traveled to Key West on 4 September to begin a TDY stint there. STAT

2. [] begin work as a part-time clerical on 14 September 1981. STAT

B. Visitors

[] ELAD linguist visited Asuncion from 15-18 September. Bureau briefings were requested by new arrivals DCM Ford Cooper, ICA junior officer [] and AID director Abe Peña. STAT

[]
Chief, FBIS Paraguay Bureau STAT

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CC: Panama Bureau

Attad: Eng. Report
Operations Attachment
Monthly Production Report
Monitor Production Report